

NAMING OF POPE FULL OF MYSTERY.

Cardinals Imprisoned Until
They Select a Successor.
Gorgeous Coronation.

From Atlanta Constitution.

In the natural course of things the interest of millions of people in every part of the world will soon be focused on the mysterious conclave of cardinals which will meet in the Sistine chapel to elect a new pope. The world outside the walls of the chapel can catch no glimpse of all the mysteries and quaint ceremonials that attend this election; but they can all be graphically pictured from the evidence of a man who has been privileged to witness them.

Since the reign of Stephen III the popes have been invariably chosen from among the cardinals, excepting under very peculiar circumstances. The sacred college, when complete, consists of seventy members.

Cardinals are elected in what is termed a consistory, or meeting of the sacred college, of which there are two kinds, private and public. At the secret one none but the pope and cardinals are present. On the contrary, at the public consistory, when cardinals receive their insignia of office, ambassadors and ministers accredited to the vatican are allowed to attend the ceremony.

Gregory XII, at the conclave at Lyons in 1274, ordered that papal elections should absolutely take place in a council expressly arranged for the purpose. During the past three centuries many popes have been elected in the quirinal. It was in this palace Pius IX was elected in 1846. Before the unification of Italy the quirinal was the summer residence of the popes. Innocent V was the first pope elected in a properly organized conclave.

The council of Lyons ordained that the election of a new pope should not take place until ten days had elapsed after the death of his predecessor. On the evening of the third day the body is taken into the basilica St. Peter and placed in an inclosure whose iron walls prevent the people from touching it, but with the right foot exposed in order that the faithful may kiss the cross on the embroidered slipper, this being a symbol of submission to the head of the church.

During the next several days the public are admitted to view the remains, and meanwhile requiem mass is sung throughout christendom. On the tenth day after the demise final and most solemn requiem is sung in St. Peter's, and in the evening the body of the dead pope is placed in a temporary vault in the crypt, where it remains for one year, until finally disposed of in the tomb selected by the pontiff during his life time.

Pius IX decided to be interred in San Lorenzo; Pope Leo has expressed his wish for interment in the basilica St. John of Lateran.

The conclave should, by rights, assemble immediately after the pope's burial. There are three methods of papal election—by ballot, compromise and inspiration. The balloting system is the one in use at present.

Since the occupation of Rome by the Italian government, the great ceremonials of the church have undergone considerable modification, and the next conclave is likely to suffer in some of its picturesque details.

The proceedings commence by closing the outer gates of the wing of the apostolic palace set aside for assembly. The cardinals at once proceed to hear mass in the Sistine or the Pauline chapel. The cardinal

regent occupies the throne, and the cardinals as they march by him chant the Inter nos est, or "Amongst us is the future pontiff."

The enormous palace is divided into as many chambers as there are cardinals in attendance. A number is affixed to each cell or chamber, and then the cardinals draw lots for possession, and primitive beds and bedding are brought to them from their own apartments. Their coat-of-arms is placed over their door, and they are solemnly handed the key to take possession. The furnishings of the different chambers are very simple, consisting of an iron bedstead, two chairs, a table, a washstand, a lamp, a few books, pen, ink and paper and the crucifix.

The cardinals are allowed to bring a supply of wines, cordials and sweetmeats, but for medicines they must depend upon the pharmacy which has been fitted up in the chapel. Attendants and servants have small rooms near those occupied by the cardinals, and the cooks are shut up and not allowed to have communication with the outside world other than such as is necessary to procure provisions from the market.

On the day of entering the cardinals are permitted to visit one another's rooms for the last time. Midnight bell rings, and at 2 a. m. tolls again, and at 3 rings for the third and last time. The gates are finally closed until the new pope is elected.

The following morning the cardinals attend mass, after which matters fall into a prescribed routine, and each cardinal is more or less sequestered. Some days may elapse before any voting is done. The balloting is free and secret, and only one man can be balloted for a time. If the conclave meets at the vatican the balloting usually takes place in the Pauline chapel.

Each prelate in his turn proceeds to a small table in one corner of the chapel, at which are seated three official ballot clerks, or scrutators. The cardinal is presented with a piece of paper, on which he writes the name of his candidate in a feigned hand. In the extreme right-hand upper corner he inscribes his own name in his usual calligraphy, turns it down and carefully seals it. Then he proceeds to the altar and droops the ballot in a chalice.

Before doing so, however, he turns to the assembled cardinals, and, holding the paper in his hand, solemnly swears that he votes according as his conscience dictates and in the interest of the holy church only.

If it is found that any single cardinal has received exactly two-thirds of votes of those present, he becomes then and there ipso facto pope. But if he lacks but one vote balloting has to recommence. Meanwhile all the useless papers are burned in a little stove supplied with a funnel opening on the piazza of St. Peter, so that the faithful assembled in the piazza below, seeing smoke issuing thence, become aware of the fact that no pope has yet been elected.

If a cardinal is elected against the wishes of the powers represented at the vatican, his election can be cancelled, but only before proclamation. During a conclave cardinals may converse with each other, but neither they nor their servants with the outside world.

The coronation ceremonies occur at the high altar at St. Peter's. His holiness receives the triple tiara from the hands of the cardinal dean on the steps of the altar; standing, not kneeling, the cardinal rests on the step nearest the altar. The authorization follows, during which the Te Deum is sung. Then the ceremony concludes with a solemn procession to the Lateran

basilica, where the archbishop presents the pope with the keys of St. Peter's on a golden salver.

The new pope receives the homage of the cardinals, archbishops, bishops and clergy, and, after giving the papal benediction from a balcony over the church door he returns in state to the vatican, attended by the ambassadors accredited to the vatican and many princes of the church, the pope, however, dining by himself under a gorgeous canopy.

The whole city of Rome is en fete on these occasions, brilliantly illuminated, and even the famous girandola is fired off from a summit of the castle of St. Angelo. Bands of music parade the streets, and until a late hour the Eternal City presents a most animated, brilliant and picturesque scene, such as cannot be witnessed elsewhere at any time; in fact, it is doubtful if such a scene will again be witnessed in Rome, unless in the improbable event of a reconciliation between the vatican and Italian government.

The truth is the spirit of a utilitarian age is unfortunately opposed to such gorgeous manifestations of ecclesiastic pomp.

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